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13 July 1957

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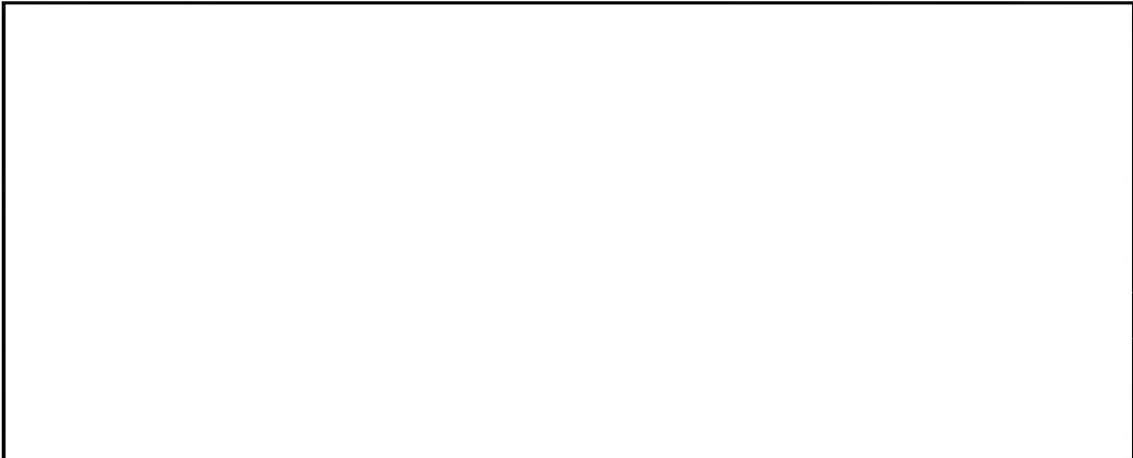
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OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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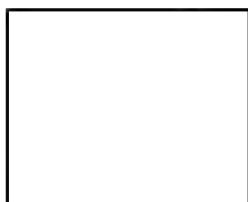
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1. EAST GERMAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

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The Soviet purges and their implications for East Germany, reformulation of the party line, and an extensive economic reorganization reportedly are the major items being discussed at the 32nd plenum of the Socialist Unity (Communist) Party central committee now meeting in East Berlin.

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[redacted] a somewhat softer political course will be adopted and some onerous restrictions lifted. Neither a general relaxation nor a personnel shake-up is anticipated, however. Although press reports have stated that Party First Secretary Walter Ulbricht is under attack at the plenum, [redacted] there is general agreement within the central committee that Ulbricht must be retained in his present position to prevent adverse reactions within the party and among the population.

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The economic reorganization reportedly will involve a general decentralization of the economic apparatus similar to that in the Soviet Union. Since it will allegedly result in drastic personnel reductions in the central organs in Berlin, with many functionaries forced to move to the provinces and take more productive jobs, the impending reorganization is said to have caused considerable grumbling and dissatisfaction among government employees in East Berlin.

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2. KHRUSHCHEV ATTACKS YUGOSLAV COMMUNISM BUT PLANS MEETING WITH TITO

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[Redacted]

Khrushchev, speaking extemporaneously in Prague on 11 July, declared that he will soon meet Yugoslav party leaders Rankovic and Kardelj in Moscow for a frank discussion of differences, and said

he plans to hold personal talks with Marshal Tito. He urged an end to Yugoslav-Soviet polemics--"let us not discuss who is cleverer and who is more stupid"--and warned that "we know how to pay back" Yugoslav criticism. Khrushchev sailed Belgrade, however, for giving at least unwitting aid and comfort to the "imperialists," and sneered at the Yugoslav concept of workers' councils. He said that while there are different approaches to socialism, there is only one general path.

Although the Yugoslavs presumably will welcome the opportunity to conduct frank discussions with the Soviet leaders, their conviction since the purge that Khrushchev is "their man" may be dashed by Khrushchev's tough line. Tito has rejected previous Soviet suggestions that it is primarily up to Yugoslavia to come to terms with the USSR. According to press reports, officials in Belgrade have indicated "obvious dismay" at Khrushchev's speech.

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4. FURTHER COMMUNIST GAINS PREDICTED IN JAVANESE LOCAL ELECTIONS

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[Redacted]

Indonesian and foreign observers who have traveled recently in Central Java forecast a Communist victory there in elections for provincial and regency assemblies scheduled for 17 and 27 July, according to the American embassy in Djakarta. These observers noted, among other indications of campaign activity, that Communist posters in this area far outnumber those of all other parties combined. In East Java, where elections are scheduled for 29 July, the Communists are also waging an active campaign although their efforts do not appear to surpass those of other parties.

Faced with the prospect that the Communists will repeat their gain of 40 percent in the recent Djakarta municipal election, the major non-Communist political parties reportedly have appealed to President Sukarno to use his influence to have the elections postponed. Sukarno to date has given no indication of heeding these pleas.

Comment

In the 1955 national elections, the Communists demonstrated their greatest strength in Central Java, where they polled a close second place to the National Party. With this strong base from which to work, combined with consistent campaigning and Sukarno's encouragement of their activity, the Communists seem likely to make further gains in this area. In 1955 the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), a conservative Moslem organization, was the strongest party in East Java, where the Communist Party also won second place.

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